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Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 KUWAIT 01296 230610 Z

15
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 /026 W
---------- 007903
O 221923 Z APR 73
FM AMEMBASSY KUWAIT
TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 6467

S E C R E T KUWAIT 1296

EXDIS

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y (TEXT)

DEPT PASS SECDEF FOR MR. VIOLETTE FROM COL. KETLY

E. O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: MASS KU
SUBJ: F-8 PROGRAM FOR KUWAIT

1. DURING WASHINGTON BRIEFINGS TEAM WAS TOLD F-8 L HAD TOP SPEED OF MACH 1.9 RPT 1.9 AND WAS CREDIBLE AIRCRAFT AGAINST EXTANT MIG-21 A THREAT. KUWAITIS, INCLUDING MINISTER OF DEFENSE AND CHIEF OF STAFF, WERE INFORMED ACCORDINGLY. NOW THAT LTV REPS BOUCHER AND SOULE ARE HERE, WE ARE TOLD THAT F-8 L HAS TOP SPEED OF 1.6 MACH AND IS CREDIBLE ONLY AGAINST MIG 17/19 THREAT. LTV REPS STATE THAT F-8 H OR J MODELS POSSESS 1.9 MACH SPEED AND ARE CREDIBLE AGAINST MIG-21. THEY ALSO STATE CNO (OP-63) IS WORKING ON NEW PLAN SUBSTITUTING F-8 H FOR F-8 L OFFER.

2. WE ARE NOW IN FINAL STAGES OF NEGOTIATION F-8 PACKAGE. URGENTLY REQUEST AUTHORITY OFFER F-8 H OR J PACKAGE OF 20-30 AIRCRAFT ON SAME DELIVERY SCHEDULE. ASSUME SALE/ LEASE COSTING DATA WOULD REMAIN ESSENTIALLY THE SAME SINCE KUWAITIS WILL HAVE ENOUGH DIFFICULTY WITH SWITCH FROM L MODEL, LET ALONE BEING TOLD THERE IS SIGNIFICANT LAST MINUTE PRICE CHANGE. FIRMLY BELIEVE OUR FUTURE SALES CREDIBILITY IS ON THE LINE WITH THIS ONE. REQUEST REPLY BY COB 23 APRIL KUWAIT TIME.

3. CHARGE CONCURS IT ABSOLUTELY VITAL TO SALES EFFORT HERE THAT
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WE PRODUCE AIRCRAFT CAPABLE OF PERFORMANCE WE HAVE PROMISE FOR F-8 AT ROUGHLY SAME PRICE AND DELIVERY SCHEDULE.
MCCLELLAND

NOTE BY OC/ T: NOT PASSED SECDEF.

SECRET

*** Current Handling Restrictions *** EXDIS
*** Current Classification *** SECRET

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To: SECSTATE WASHDC
SS
Type: TE
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